



STRATEGIC PLAN

2017-2021

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I. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council is to promote and embrace inclusion, equality and empowerment. To that end, the Council will:

- * Fund projects that promote system change
- * Facilitate access to culturally competent services
- * Educate the public and policy makers
- * Hold agencies accountable

The Council believes that:

- * All individuals should be included
- * All individuals should be able to exercise their rights and responsibilities
- * Needs of individuals and families should be met
- * Supports should be person-centered
- * Equality should be promoted and the accepted standard

II. AREAS OF EMPHASIS

1. Self-Advocacy
2. Inter-Agency Collaboration
3. Health Care
4. Education/Early Intervention

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal:

Using a collaborative approach, improve advocacy skills among a diverse group of individuals living with disabilities and their families.

Area of Emphasis:

Self-Advocacy (SA)

Objectives:

SA 1.	<p>Apply a “train the trainer” approach to enlist at least ten (10) Partners in Policymaking™ and Junior Partners in Policymaking® graduates with demonstrated leadership skills as presenters at Partners in Policymaking® and other programs. Two (2) presenters from the aforementioned programs will be successfully recruited during each year of the Five (5) Year State Plan.</p> <p>Policy and Law Committee</p>
SA 2.	<p>Work collaboratively with other Delaware advocacy agencies and organizations such as the Disabilities Law Program, Center for Disabilities Studies, State Council for Persons with Disabilities, Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens and the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services to improve access to the amount of information and resources that self-advocates can readily use for each year during the Five (5) Year State Plan.</p> <p>Adult Issues Committee</p>
SA 3.	<p>Increase awareness among self-advocates participating in defined Delaware Disabilities Council (DDC) programs, such as Partners in Policymaking®, Junior Partners in Policymaking™ and the LIFE Conference, regarding communication options available through the Center for Disabilities Studies Assistive Technology Services as well as “cutting edge” developments in assistive technology education, legal rights and public benefits. Two hundred and fifty (250) self-advocates will be reached over the course of the Five (5) Year State Plan at a rate of fifty (50) self-advocates for each Five (5) Year State Plan year.</p> <p>Adult Issues Committee</p>
SA 4.	<p>Disseminate information and increase social dialog between self-advocates and the community through a variety of approaches, including networking and community events, social media communication, sponsored roundtables, topical community conversations, community events, educational opportunities and conferences. Three hundred (300) self-advocates will be impacted over the course of the Five (5) Year State Plan at a rate of sixty (60) self-advocates per state plan year.</p> <p>Children and Families Committee</p>

Objectives:**SA
5.**

The Delaware DDC will support efforts to improve self-advocacy through support of one Delaware self-advocacy organization during each year of the Five Year State Plan.

Policy and Law Committee

Goal:

Develop and implement a person and family-centered approach to address needs across the lifespan of persons with disabilities and their families.

Area of Emphasis:

Inter-Agency Collaboration (IAC)

Objectives:**IAC
1.**

Plan and implement at least annual meetings among members of the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC), Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) and the Disabilities Law Program (DLP) to identify policy priorities and collaborative advocacy opportunities. At least one (1) such meeting will take place for each of the five (5) years in the State Plan.

Policy and Law Committee

**IAC
2.**

Work collaboratively with the Center for Disabilities Studies, the Delaware Disabilities Law Program and other local advocacy organizations to educate key state policymakers on the benefits of expanding state Medicaid and CHIP programs to include free or low-cost wellness, exercise and weight-loss options for individuals with disabilities. Key state policymakers will receive education over each of the five (5) years of the Five (5) Year State Plan. Request to present at the various Caucuses, particularly the Kids' Caucus, within the Delaware Legislature, regarding the benefits of expanding state Medicaid and CHIP programs to include free or low-cost wellness, exercise and weight-loss options for individuals with disabilities.

Children and Families Committee

**IAC
3.**

Collaborate with the Center for Disabilities Studies, the Delaware Disabilities Law Program and other local health, wellness and advocacy agencies/organizations to secure expansion of access to at least one (1) free or low-cost wellness, exercise and/or weight-loss option per year of the Five (5) Year State Plan for individuals with disabilities making the most of community partnerships.

Adult Issues Committee

Goal:

Improve access to quality healthcare and enable holistic health care for individuals with disabilities throughout the lifespan by providing educational opportunities for the medical community regarding the need for and benefits of self-directed, skilled home care, and supports for people with disabilities.

Area of Emphasis:

Health Care (HC)

Objectives:

HC 1.	<p>Increase education on sexuality among young adults with disabilities and their parents by conducting 2 workshops per year over the course of the five (5) year state plan, with the goal of reaching twenty (20) individuals with disabilities and/or their families/caregivers during each Five (5) Year State Plan year.</p> <p>Adult Issues Committee</p>
HC 2.	<p>Develop and/or approve curriculum and provide training for physicians and other clinical professionals. Include information on assistive technology, cultural competence, physical/cognitive accessibility needs, telemedicine, patient rights and disability etiquette. Develop and/or approve curriculum during year one (1) of the Five (5) Year State Plan. Provide training to fifteen (15) clinicians per year during years two (2) through four (4) of the Five (5) Year State Plan.</p> <p>Children and Families Committee</p>
HC 3.	<p>Build on existing public and private partnerships to support a comprehensive public education campaign addressing the medical and social impacts of the correlation between aging adults (age 50+) with Down syndrome who are at risk for developing Alzheimer's disease. Explore the impact on the individual with Down syndrome's quality of life and life expectancy as well as that of their caregiver(s). Educate key state policymakers about the need for more research and development on this subject, as well as the health and social services needs and policy implications of the correlation between Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Disease during each year of the Five (5) Year State Plan.</p> <p>Adult Issues Committee</p>

Goal:

Maximize the potential of persons with developmental disabilities through the provision of vocational and life skills training from early childhood through adulthood for persons with disabilities living in poverty.

Area of Emphasis:

Education and Early Intervention (EEI)

Objectives:

EEI 1.	<p>Advocate for improved awareness of career choices for children with disabilities, including those children receiving core services in segregated settings, through assessment and interest identification from early education to best match each student with associated career opportunities through planned communication with the Delaware Department of Education, Delaware School Districts, and families. Planned communications will take place twice per year for years one (1) through three (3) of the Five (5) Year State Plan.</p> <p>Children and Families Committee</p>
EEI 2.	<p>Develop and/or approve and implement one education and resource program over the course of the first year of the Five (5) Year State Plan for individuals currently receiving core services in segregated settings. The program will help to identify individuals' interests and match those interests with employment opportunities, financial literacy training and programs that promote healthy lifestyle choices. Twenty (20) individuals currently receiving core services in segregated settings will be reached during years two (2) through five (5) of the Five (5) Year State Plan through the presentation of this curriculum.</p> <p>Adult Issues Committee</p>